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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A medical needle ~~(10)~~, comprising:

an inner needle ~~(20)~~ ~~which is~~ to be inserted into living tissue, and

a hollow cylindrical outer tube needle ~~(30)~~ ~~which is~~ to be inserted into the living tissue together with the inner needle ~~(20)~~, with the inner needle ~~(20)~~ being inserted therein, and ~~is~~ to be retained in the living tissue after the inner needle ~~(20)~~ is removed, wherein

~~the tip portion of the said inner needle (20) includes~~
a tip portion extending out of ~~the~~ a front end bore of said outer tube needle ~~(30)~~ ~~is formed as~~ and having a spherical crown portion ~~(24)~~ ~~which is~~ capable of being inserted along a punctured hole previously formed in the living tissue so as not to damage ~~the~~ lumen of the punctured hole, and said inner needle ~~(20)~~ ~~comprises~~ further includes:

a main body portion ~~(21)~~ ~~which is formed to have~~ having an outside diameter ~~which is~~ approximately equal to ~~the~~ an inside diameter of said outer tube needle ~~(30)~~;

a tapered portion ~~(22)~~ ~~which~~ integrally ~~connects~~ connected to ~~the~~ a front end portion of the main body portion ~~(21)~~, ~~extends,~~ extending along ~~the~~ an axis of the main body portion ~~(21)~~ ~~being~~ , and having a diameter gradually decreased in diameter decreasing, ~~and extends out of~~ to protrude from the front end bore of said outer tube needle ~~(30)~~; and

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a small-diameter portion ~~(23) which further extends~~
extending by a prescribed length from the a front end
portion of the tapered portion ~~(22)~~ along said axis, and
having a diameter ~~which is~~ approximately equal to ~~the a~~
smallest diameter of ~~the a front end portion thereof of the~~
tapered portion, and the ~~tip portion of the small-diameter~~
~~portion (23) is formed as said~~ spherical crown portion ~~(24)~~.

2. (currently amended) The medical needle ~~(10) of~~
according to claim 1, wherein said inner needle ~~(20)~~ is
formed in ~~the shape of a solid rod-like~~ rod shape over the
an entire length thereof.

3. (currently amended) The medical needle ~~(10) of~~
according to claim 1, wherein said inner needle ~~(20a)~~ is
provided with a through hole ~~(25)~~ which substantially
passes through the axis over ~~the~~ an entire length thereof.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The medical needle ~~(10) of~~
according to claim 1, wherein ~~the diameter of said~~
spherical crown portion ~~(24A) is adapted to be~~ has a
diameter larger than ~~the~~ an outside diameter of said small-
diameter portion ~~(23)~~.

6. (canceled)